

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 13, and 15 and add new Claims 17 and 18 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 13, and 15, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Twice Amended) An optical system comprising,
a layered diffraction optical member laminated with a plurality of diffraction parts, wherein said layered diffraction optical member is provided in front of a pupil,
wherein said layered diffraction optical member includes a first diffraction part of negative power and a second diffraction part of positive power provided behind said first diffraction part,
wherein said first diffraction part and said second diffraction part are made of materials having dispersion characteristics different from each other, and
wherein said layered diffraction optical member is formed to have high diffraction efficiency for diffracted light of a particular order over a visible wavelength range to be used in said optical system.

4. (Twice Amended) An optical system according to Claim 1, wherein an air layer is interposed between said first diffraction part and said second diffraction part.

7. (Twice Amended) An optical system according to Claim 1 further comprising a refraction optical member.

11. (Amended) An optical system comprising:

a layered diffraction optical member laminated with a plurality of diffraction parts, wherein said layered diffraction optical member is provided behind a pupil,

wherein said layered diffraction optical member includes a first diffraction part of positive power and a second diffraction part of negative power provided behind said first diffraction part,

wherein said first diffraction part and said second diffraction part are made of materials having dispersion characteristics different from each other, and

wherein said layered diffraction optical member is formed to have high diffraction efficiency for diffracted light of a particular order over a visible wavelength range to be used in said optical system.

13. (Amended) An optical system according to Claim 11, wherein an air layer is interposed between said first diffraction part and said second diffraction part.

15. (Amended) An optical system according to Claim 11, further comprising a refraction optical member.

Please add new Claims 17 and 18 as follows:

--17. (New) An optical system according to Claim 1, wherein each of said first diffraction optical part and said second diffraction optical part comprises a diffraction grating, and wherein the diffraction gratings have blazed shapes oriented in opposing directions.